required throughout the State, local requirements being also kept in view as far as possible. It was only very recently that Government sanctioned the proposal of the Chief Engineer for a sum of Rs. 1,685 being expended on surveying some roads necessary in the Kottayam Division. Equal attention, as far as circumstances will permit, is being paid to all the divisions of the State, but individual representations from particular divisions as to special wants will also be duly attended to.

128. Restoration and up-keep of the canals and water-ways of the State.

Mr. S. Krishna Iyer, B. A., B. L., (T. I. C., Alleppey) said that nothing was now being heard of a Canal Committee which existed some years ago. Many of the canals in the Central and Northern Divisions were being steadily encroached upon by the owners of adjacent lands and becoming shallower and shallower for want of repair. The necessity for deepening and restoring them to their original condition was imminent, especially as companies were also making use of the water-ways for running steam launches. He suggested that the Tahsildars might be asked to submit reports on the present and the past condition of these canals and water-ways and the Public Works Department consulted as to the amount of funds necessary for their restoration and maintenance.

Reply.—As mentioned in my address, a special Canal Subdivision has been formed for the purpose of improving the canals and water-ways of the State, and with a view to maintain the channels, regulate the traffic and secure some return to the Government for the large outlay involved on this account, early legislation on the subject is contemplated. A scheme has been recently elaborated and submitted by the Chief Engineer for deepening and otherwise improving the condition of some of the canals. This being an important measure, I asked the Chief Engineer and the Head Sirkar Vakil to work at it and draft a Bill for legalising the institution of a fee for this purpose. Their report has just been drafted. The whole matter will be carefully looked into.

129. Passing of rules referred to in sections 7 and 30 of the Irrigation Regulation (III of 1072).

Mr. N. Padmanabha Pillai (Chengannur) brought up this subject and prayed for the early passing of the rules under the Irrigation Regulation.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly